the necessity for generating additional revenues to modernize the services for meeting the needs of customers, revision of postal rates from time to time is unavoidable.

(d) The Department of Posts has been making all out efforts to control expenditure and enhance revenue, in order to contain the deficit. Expenditure control is effected through economy measures and close monitoring of expenditure. Postal tariffs are revised from time to time to reduce the subsidy provided in each service keeping in view the eventual social obligation of the Department. Effective steps are also being taken to revise agency charges to be recovered from other departments in respect of agency services rendered on their behalf. The Department of Posts is also making all out efforts to mobilise additional resources through better marketing of premium product service like speed post, Business post and commercial publicity, etc.

Telephone facilities in the villages of Tamil Nadu

2475. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of villages having telephone facility in Tamil Nadu as on date; and

(b) the location-wise number of villages where telephone facility is proposed to be provided during 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) All the 17,899 villages in Tamil Nadu have been provided with telephone facility as on date at least by providing a Village Public Telephone in each village. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

S.No.	Name of District	Village Public Telephones
1.	Coimbatore	488
2.	Cuddalore	790
3.	Dharmapuri	1169
4.	Dindigul	399
5.	Erode	531
6.	Kancheepuram	1087
7.	Kanyakumari	183
8.	Karur	189
9.	Madurai	631

S.No.	Name of District	Village Public Telephones
10.	Nagapattinam	338
11.	Namakkal	451
12.	Permbalur	402
13.	Periyakulam	173
14.	Pondicherry	266
15.	Pudukottai	816
16.	Ramanathapuram	554
17.	Salem	652
18.	Sivaganga	635
19.	Thanjavur	846
20.	The Nilgiris	55
21.	Tirunelveli	590
22.	Tiruvannmalai	1125
23.	Tiruvarur	714
24.	Tiruvellore	643
25.	Trichy	546
26.	Tuticorin	507
27.	Vellore	907
28.	Villupurm	1561
29.	Virudhnagar	651
	TOTAL:	17899

More facilities for cellular subscribers

2476. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to meet the impending challenges from private cellular operators/companies by making more attractive and acceptable terms to the subscribers like security deposit amount, rate of incoming calls, etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. has revised their cellular tariff to make them more competitive as per details given below:—